70 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
1946 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Volume LXVI - Number 9 – September 2017

Friday September 15, 2017
7:30pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
DX Interest Group Meeting 6pm
*** License Testing 6pm ***

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9·11·01 REMEMBER
NEW YORK, NY · SOMERSET, PA · ARLINGTON, VA

ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

SEPTEMBER MEETING

PACIFICON REVIEW !

Presented by Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE, Chair

Misa will update us on all the events and forums that will be at this year's Pacificon, this year's ARRL Pacific Division Convention in San Ramon presented by our club's hardworking volunteers.

PACIFICON 2017
ARRL Pacific Division Ham Radio Convention
Produced by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
PACIFICON 17 SAN RAMON CA AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION · MDARC · MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Pacificon gives you three great days of activities for one low cost: A full slate of outstanding Forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio topics; a large Vendor Expo filled with exciting products and exhibits; an outdoor Swap Meet; QRP activities; Youth Activities; electronics kit building and soldering classes; a One Day License Prep Class to prepare you to pass the amateur radio Technician license examination and get your first amateur radio license; a Special Events Station where you can operate and contact other hams worldwide, even if you don't have a General or Extra Class license; a wonderful Banquet; our annual Wouff Hong Initiation ceremony; a chance to hear about and discuss important national amateur radio issues with top ARRL leaders, a chance to win radios and other great prizes throughout the convention, and perhaps the best part - *a chance to interact and share information with lots of other amateur radio enthusiasts to further (or begin) your own knowledge and to advance the hobby.*

LICENSE TESTING REPORT

At the August 18, 2017, MDARC meeting, the following candidates successfully completed their license examinations:

TECHNICAN

Isaac Kaplan Berkeley KM6MIF

Amanda Fales Oakland KM6MIE

Ryan Hebert Oakland KM6MID

EXTRA

Jeffery Wong Oakland KM6LZZ

Joseph Concepcion San Ramon KK6WFU

Scott Anderson Lafayette KM6BNP If you hear any of these new hams or newly upgraded hams on the air, please congratulate them on their recent accomplishment. — Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

When you purchase at Amazon dot com smile, a portion of your purchase is donated to our club.

Go to:
https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7072059

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN **FULL COLOR** AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Mike Patterson, N6JGA
Vice President - Larry Bradley KK6QPE
Secretary – Dick Fletcher, AF9RF
Treasurer - Cathi Walton, K2CJW
Technical Committee Chair
Jim Siemons, AF6PU

Directors At Large
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Terry Buxton, KK6KGX
Janice Fujii, KG6VTD John Primus, AF6RJ

Emergency Coordinator - Ron Bunch, W4FEK

PACIFICON 2017
Chair: Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
Registration: Tom Deeble, KA6SIP & Debbie Deeble
Treasurer: Jim Siemons, AF6PU
Secretary: (vacant)
Web Page: Mike Patterson, N6JGA

Membership Chair – Tom Deeble, KA6SIP
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

Website - David Schild, KK6CQX
Repeater Trustee - Jay Caldis, KT6Y
Education & Training Chair - John Primus, AF6RJ
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Public Service - Klaus Berkner, K6KHB
Outreach Coordinator - Jim Siemons, AF6PU
Field Day Chair - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Refreshments: Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Holiday Party - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
Communications Van - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE

The Carrier Newsletter
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

School has started and autumn is only a couple of weeks away. Hard to believe the summer has gone by so fast.

But the start of the fall season means that Pacificon is only a month away. If you haven't registered yet, do so now. The deadline for advance registration is coming up soon. And if you plan to stay overnight at the hotel, but haven't made your reservation, time is almost up. The deadline for reserving a room at the Pacificon rate is less than two weeks away. In fact, it may be too late by the time you read this, since the hotel is almost full. So if you're planning to stay at the hotel, stop reading this (for a few minutes) and make you reservation now.

Our own Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE and Pacificon Chair will be the speaker at our meeting this month to fill us in on the details of all that's happening at this year's event. Come to the meeting to get all the details.

At last month's meeting, I announced the formation of a Nomination Committee to find candidates for our annual Board of Directors election. They are now requesting candidates all officer positions on the Board and two of the four Director positions. All positions need to be filled by willing and able people who want to help the Club continue being as strong as it has been for so long. Please consider putting your hat in the ring for the Board this year.

Our Education committee is about half way through its second Technician Class license course for the year. We have a full house of students, including three that are well below voting age. Our Committee has refined the process to an art. Their success rate continues to be very high for these courses. Pretty much anyone willing to make the effort to come to the classes and do the study work will almost certainly pass the test. The course will be followed up with some Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) sessions before breaking for Pacificon.

We still have several Public Service events to support this year. The next one is coming right up, on Sept. 16th, the day after our meeting. It's the annual Walnut Festival Twilight Parade in downtown Walnut Creek. Always a fun event. Be sure to look over our Public service events page at http://www.mdarc.org/activities/public-service and sign up for as many as you can.

Save the Date: Sunday, December 3, 2017 is the date of our annual Club holiday banquet this year. We'll be at Zio Fraedo's restaurant in Pleasant Hill again, as we have the past several years. Mark your calendar now, so you don't schedule any conflicts for that date. We'll send out more details as we get closer. Remember, this banquet replaces our December Club meeting. There will not be a Club meeting on the 3rd Friday, Dec. 16.

We have one of the best ham clubs in California. All we need to keep it that way is people to help us with the services we provide. Also, consider that many of our veteran members have been participating in the Club activities for a long time. Someday, all of them will be retiring from their current positions and we'll need people to replace them. So please help us by volunteering for the Club. No experience necessary; we'll provide that. Our Club and all the activities we do can't exist unless you volunteer.

73 until next time,

Mike Patterson, N6JGA
President

Meet Your Fellow Club Members

In an effort to get to know your fellow club members better, our newsletter will feature an interview each month from one of our fellow club members.

This month, meet a past club president, Jim Siemons, AF6PU.

What got you interested in ham radio?

Since I was a kid, I had always admired the folks that had Amateur Radio licenses. They performed magic. I never knew a path to get my license, so stuck with more conventional audio pursuits. One day, I was traveling with two buddies, each on dual-sport motorcycles, and traveling through the west side of the Rubicon trail. One of my buddies suffered a heart attack, and we were hours away from any help, and no cell phone service. I was never going be in the outback and away from communication again – if I could help it.

When and where did you become a ham? Is any member of your family a ham?

I became an amateur operator in March of 2009, and an Extra Class licensee on April Fool's day of 2009. My wife, Misa, KJ6BUE, and my oldest daughter, Emily, AI6OQ, are both active hams.

What is (was) your profession? Do you have any other hobbies and interests?

I studied accounting and computers at St. Mary's College of California. I was a partner in a direct mail marketing service out of Berkeley since 1988. In 2011, I purchased Elk Antennas from Ray Gaschk, AG6SI, and Pete Perata, K6SHE. I have been continuing to develop, produce, and sell portable Log-Periodic antennas for use in Amateur operations, as well as commercial and military uses. My hobbies beyond Amateur Radio include, Jeeping, hiking, technology, travel, and photography. Also, I enjoy whatever my family is into at the moment!

What ham radio activities to you enjoy the most?

I enjoy and appreciate just about all aspects of Amateur Radio. I personally love making distant contacts via any mode that I am on. I think this is a great hobby for people that enjoy people – and I suppose that I am a people person! I have been active in MDARC and Pacificon since the night that I passed my Technician license. I really enjoy helping with license testing, EmComm via CERT and AES, public service events, and community outreach. The men and women of MDARC are some of the finest human beings that I have had the pleasure of knowing!

What is your favorite thing to do in MDARC?

My most favorite thing is just so simple… At the monthly MDARC general meetings, I enjoy talking with fellow hams. I really get no end of enjoyment in that simple act. Being involved with the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group/MDARC Technical Committee gives me a great sense of pride.

How would you improve the MDARC Club?

The Club is always working to improving everything that we can, but areas that we know need attention are helping new members, providing new member packets, and making Club logo wear and decals available to members. Those things will happen and are in the works. Also, we are always working on coming up with new activities for the ham community.

What future plans and ambitions do you have for your interest in ham radio?

I am forever trying to hone my skills in electronics and repeater operations. I want to always ensure that MDARC has high quality repeaters that are available to everyone. I want us to be a leader in the use of technology to best serve our MDARC membership and the ham community at large. You can never get complacent, and must continually strive to study and learn new things. The friendships and collaborations that I have developed in the Club are really life changing for me.

Do you have future plans and ambitions with MDARC?

I try to be as active with MDARC as I possibly can. I am involved with many committees, including Pacificon, and hope to continue with the kind of enthusiasm that I've had for the last many years, for many more years into the future. My main commitments are with the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group (MDARC's Technical Committee). I put in many hours each month, if not each week (or day) in helping to keep W6CX up and on the air. We have the most awesome team of technologically savvy Amateur Operators that I get to work with. I plan on helping with this committee for a long time to come.

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

On August 26, 2017, the “Nor Cal Kids' Triathlon” was held in the city of Orinda. The local amateur radio group, the Lamorinda Amateur Radio Interest Group (LARIG - K6ORI), and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC - W6CX), teamed up to provide public service communications support to the event.

The triathlon involved kids from 6 years old to 14 years old, doing a swim, a run, a bicycle activity and another run. The swim took place at Miramonte High School. The run was from the high school to the Del Rey Elementary School, where the runners transitioned to bicycles for a 3.1 mile ride. The riders returned to the elementary school to drop off their bicycles, and ran back to the finish line at the high school's stadium.

The following LARIG hams participated in the public service event: Julian KK6ZAG, Dan KM6MFB, Iris KJ6TFZ, and Mary KM6MFD. The following MDARC hams also participated: Terry KK6KGX, Frank KF6FIO, John KK6IWO, LarryB KK6QPE, Klaus K6KHB and LarryL KI6LNB.

The Orinda simplex frequency, 147.540 MHz, was used as the primary frequency for ham communications.

Net roll calls occurred every half hour to assure that each ham's radio was still available to communicate with net control.

An unlicensed LARIG member, Cristy, made the roll calls, under the control operator supervision at net control.

The only casualty of the event was a bicyclist who lost control and fell down at a turnaround at the end of a street. He got up and continued the race.

A good time was had by all.

Submitted by
Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

MDARC Public Service Events Fall 2017

If interested (and I hope you are) please contact the radio coordinator listed for each event.
73,
Klaus K6KHB, MDARC Public Service Coordinator khberkner@comcast.net

Walnut Festival Twilight Parade

Sept. 16, 2017 (Sat) - Downtown Walnut Creek
Radio Coordinator: Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
pharris125@comcast.net

Bay Ridge Endurance Runs [Formerly Firetrails 50]

October 7, 2017 (Sat) – Scena Performance
Radio Coordinator: John Rabold, KS6M KS6M@jrabold.net

Mt. Diablo Challenge Bike Ride

October 8,2017 (Sun) - Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Club
Radio Coordinator: Barry Isseks, K6ZA
bisseks@me.com

Wheels for Meals Bike Ride

October 21, 2017 (Sat) - for Meals on Wheels
Radio Coordinator: Chris Quirk, W6CJQ

w6cjq@yahoo.com

August 2017 General Club Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2017

Presided over by: President Mike Patterson, N6JGA

Recorded by: Secretary Richard W Fletcher, AF9RF

Meeting location: Our Saviors Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, Ca.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30, PM PDST.

A pledge of allegiance was performed.

The minutes of the previous meeting (July) were approved by the membership.

There was a call for candidates for the various posts in the upcoming club elections.

It was announced that the program following the meeting would be Trevor Hall, WA6JAU with "So Much More on W6CX-R".

Treasurer, Cathi, briefed the gathering on activities effecting club finances. She reported the MDARC Checking Account with an balance of $37,855.10, the Equipment Self-Insurance fund balance of $56,042.41, and the Pacificon Checking Account a total of $29.806.78. The total of these balances reached $123,704.29.

Ron, W4FEK, reported (for John Primus, AF6RJ) that the latest Technician License Class started yesterday evening at the SATERN premises in Concord. All is going well.

It was reported that "Pacificon" reserved hotel rooms are (still)95% reserved.

The 2017 Nor Cal kid's Triathalon in Orinda will be held Saturday August 26th 2017.
Contact the Communications Coordinator, Larry Loomer, KI6LNB. Helping hands are needed.

Tech committee chair, Jim AF6PU, reported numerous recent maintenance and improvements on our equipment at Mt Diablo. One improvement was the installation of a new 440 Mhz antenna.

Lauren, WA6CIE reported on the status of the club van. He described numerous tasks that have been completed. He said that there are still a number items to be completed. Work on the the trailer is progressing.

Rich, K6REL, promoted awareness in the "Clunkers for Charity" effort describing the need and usefulness of cars in any condition being valuable to Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary Club. They convert any motor vehicle to charitable funds for the needy. Visit them @ Clunkers4Charity.org.

The evenings testing effort produced 3 Technician and 3 Extra class licensees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Richard W Fletcher, AF9RF

HAM RADIO OUTLET

14 STORE BUYING POWER!

ICOM

IC-7600 | *All Mode Transceiver*

• 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15khz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope

IC-7200 | *HF Transceiver*

• 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP • AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control

IC-7100 | *All Mode Transceiver*

• HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions

ID-5100A | *VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver*

• Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch • FM Analog/DV Repeater List Function

ID-51A | *VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver*

• 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52–1.71, 88–174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible

KENWOOD

TS-590SG | *HF/50MHz Transceiver*

• Equipped with 500 Hz/2.7 kHz roofing filter as standard • ALC derived from TS-990S eliminating spike issues • Antenna output function (shared with DRV connector) • CW - morse code decoder function

TM-D710G | *2M/440 Dualband*

• V+V/V+U/U+U operation • Built-in GPS • Built-in TNC for APRS & DX-Cluster operation • 50W 2M & UHF • 1,000 memories • Dual receive • Green or amber backlight colors • Latest APRS firmware w/new features • Sky Command II remote functions

TM-V71A | *2M/440 DualBand*

• High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops • Invertible front panel • Choice of green/amber for LCD panel • 104 code digital code squelch

TM-281A | *2 Mtr Mobile*

• 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio

TH-F6A | *2M/220/440*

• Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories • Li-Ion Battery

YAESU
The radio

FT-991 | *HF/50MHz/2M/440 Transceiver*

• 160 M-440MHz - SSB/CW/FM/C4FM Digital/AM/RTTY/PSK • 100 W (2M/4440: 50 Watts) • 3.5" TFT full-color touch panel operation • High speed spectrum scope • Roofing filers: 3kHz & 15kHz • 32-bit high speed floating point IF DSP

FTDX1200 | *100W HF + 6M Transceiver*

• Triple Conversion Receiver With 32-bit Floating Point DSP • 40 MHz 1st IF with selectable 3 kHz, 6kHz & 15 kHz Roofing Filters • Optional FFT-1 Supports AF-FFT Scope, RTTY/PSK31 Encode/Decode, CW Decode/Auto Zero-In • Full Color 4.3" TFT Display

FT-450D | *A100W HF + 6M Transceiver*

• 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in • 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

FTM-400DR | *2M/440 Mobile*

• Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band

FT-60R | *2M/440 5W HT*

• Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

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- ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- MAIL – All store locations

ANAHEIM, CA (800) 854-6046	OAKLAND, CA (877) 892-1745		PORTLAND, OR (800) 765-4267	PHOENIX, AZ (800) 559-7388	WOODBRIDGE, VA (800) 444-4799	PLANO, TX (877) 455-8750 New Store!
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Contact HRO for promotion details. Toll-free including Hawaii, Alaska and Canada. Call will be routed to the nearest store. All HRO 800-lines can assist you. If the first line you call is busy, you may call another. AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA residents add sales tax. Prices, specifications and descriptions subject to change without notice.

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS

Affiliated Club

NEXT MONTH: PACIFICON 17 SAN RAMON CA AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION

https://www.facebook.com/mdarc.org

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 *offset plus 2.5 MHz*
https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/ Digital ATV Output 1244.500
Digital ATV Input 1292.500
ATV Inputs: 1289.25 MHz AM; 1270.000 FM pl 192.8 915.0 AM 427.0 AM
ATV Internet Stream: http://www.w6cxatv.net/live

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday
http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)
7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)
or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)
or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

September and October 2017 Club Calendar

Friday September 15, 2017	**7:30pm**	**General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette**
Monday October 2, 2017	8:00am	MDARC Board Meeting Black Bear Restaurant, 700 Bancroft Avenue, Walnut Creek
Saturday October 7, 2017	8:00am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg
Friday October 20, 2017	7:30pm	MDARC General Meeting - **AT PACIFICON 2017** **Marriott Hotel 2600 Bishop Dr San Ramon - Salon E**